

STRENGTHENING LIVES IN EASTERN CHAD (SLIC III)

ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ending September 30, 2012

For

**THE UNITED STATES AGENCY
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

GRANT NO: AID- OFDA-G-12-00035-00

Submitted by:

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ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: April 1, 2012 (grant start date) – September 30, 2012

GENERAL REFERENCE:

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Program Goal: Vulnerable, rural populations in Dar Sila Region are increasingly able to support themselves in a sustainable manner.

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY:

This report summarizes OFDA funded activities that supported former IDPs in Eastern Chad in their return from the IDP sites to their villages of origin, their relocation, and resettlement in host villages. This report focuses on the work carried out in return villages under the World Concern Development Organization (WCDO)/OFDA project entitled SLIC III, from the grant start date of April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012. The OFDA funding received was invested into the lives of Eastern Chad residents under two separate but complementary sectors: Agriculture and Food Security (AFS) and Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS).

The reporting period was marked by two major disasters: food insecurity caused by the 2011/2012 drought that badly affected the rainy season harvest and the 2012 floods, washing away some crops due to over average rain. The 2011 delayed and sporadic rain was the worst in recent history and it created a severe food crisis in the entire Sahel belt region.

The 2011 poor harvest forced people to look for alternative survival mechanisms such as collection of wild fruits and grains that they were not used to, but later on WFP made targeted food distributions in most villages WCDO operates in. This facilitated WCDO to undertake a smooth distribution of seeds, tools, and traction animals to more than 25,000 beneficiaries. Despite flooding that washed away 180 hectares of sorghum, 133 hectares of millet, and 60 hectares of peanuts, non-affected farmers will produce enough food that will help to reduce the lean period. Though the 2012 heavy rains culminated into flooding that destroyed some crops, it provided enough rain to grow cereal grains in many parts, with a potential to harvest more than the last five years average harvest combined.

Program Goal: Vulnerable, rural populations in Dar Sila region are increasingly able to support themselves in a sustainable manner.

SECTOR: Food Security and Agriculture

Objective: Improve access to food through increased food production for sale and consumption.

Beneficiaries: 6,000 beneficiaries (1,200 families) are targeted for this objective

Sub-Sector – Livestock

Indicator 1: Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities (*Target: 40 animals*)

40 horses have been purchased and given to groups of farmers on a 20% beneficiary cost share contribution basis. This was an approach designed to start changing the mindset of returnees who have been receiving free distributions for so long. It was also a strategy to reduce the likelihood of quick resale, as groups were contractually bound to keep the animal for a set period, or pay the remaining 80% of cost. The approach worked perfectly, as no livestock were resold; rather all are busy working on the beneficiaries' farms or the farmers are making money transporting goods of non-members. Horse purchases were done through a participatory approach on an open weekly market day in Goz Beida.

Indicator 2: Number of people benefiting from livestock activities (*Target: 5,000 people*)

828 families, representing 5,126 people, benefited from the 40 horses given to 40 different farmers' groups in the return villages. These animals will continue serving the community even after this project is completed. A local government veterinarian checked their respective races, health, age, and approved their fit to the weather and environment before they were handed over to the group owner. The WCDO team trained farmers on how to care and maintain a horse in good health, to optimize its use on the farm and for transportation activities.

Sub Sector: Seed Systems and Agricultural Inputs

Indicator 1: (Projected) increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural inputs (*Target: 2 months*)

The government rural development office (ONDR) technical team has carried out a pre-harvest evaluation that indicates that harvest was extremely good this year except where flooding, insects, crop diseases, and other problems affected crops. The results are quite impressive compared to the crisis the program found them in at the beginning of May. WCDO believes that this can sustain participants for at least 5 months without feeling the effects of the lean period, provided they do not sell them out so quickly. A final analysis will be conducted in the next fiscal year.

Indicator 2: Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities (*Target: 6,000 people*)

28,138 people (20,550 for rainy season and 7,588 for counter season) were provided with locally grown seeds, tools, and traction animals to enable them to reverse the previous year lost of cereal food and seeds. The improved seeds were not available anywhere in the country at the time this grant was approved and the rain had started showering the land earlier than usual (first week of May instead of last week of June, prolonged throughout September). Despite flooding that destroyed some 180 hectares of sorghum, 133 hectares of millet, and 60 hectares of peanuts, the 2012 rainy season harvest is extremely good for both seasons. This is to say that a good number of participants are likely not to feel the challenges of the lean season.

SECTOR: Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)

Objective: Increase immediate income through restored access to productive assets and capital.

Sub sector: Economic Asset Development

Beneficiaries: 425 women (ROSCAs) receiving training and metallic money boxes to start ROSCAs activities

Indicator 1: Number of people assisted through economic asset development activities (*Target: 425 individuals/85 groups of 5 women each*)

A total of 439 women attended all the scheduled business training sessions; 425 of them are part of ROSCAs and received their metallic money boxes, with a training kit in the form of commercial goods (1 sack of flour, 1 sack of sugar, and 20 liters of cooking oil). All the 85 groups of five women started ROSCAs and are doing well in the newly started IGAs.

Indicator 2: Number and percent of people utilizing economic assets created to support their livelihood pattern (*Target: 425 women/95% of micro-credit loan installments repaid according to schedule*)

439 women (103%) attended all the scheduled training sessions but only 425 were registered in the ROSCAs. The remaining 14 women came on their own, interested to learn these principles of small business entrepreneurship. As they received training, women started small businesses using training kits provided by WCDO in the form of commercial goods (flour, sugar, and cooking oil) to create assets and start savings that will accumulate to give loans among members. By the end of September, 173 had already received loans, 83 (48%) of the loans were fully reimbursed with 8% interest within 22 days; the other 90 (52%) were still in progress.

A survey carried out in September by the WCDO team indicates that each ROSCA group has an average of XFA 92,188 (equivalent to \$185) with XFA 53,140 (equivalent to \$107) in credit rotation while the balance remains in their cash box. Besides this financial capital, the women had goods in stock estimated to XFA 59,200 (equivalent to \$119). For women who started from scratch and had no income at their arrival from the IDP site, this is a significant achievement.

All that they dream is to start rearing small livestock, increasing their stock of food stuff for reselling, gaining access to arable land, installation of grinding mills in their communities,

buying carts for transportation, purchasing agricultural tools, and revitalizing their small businesses, hence becoming business women in their community setting and beyond.

Life change Testimony



My name is **Ahmat Yacoub**, I am 32 years old, married and the father of eight (five girls and three boys). I come from Faridé Dadjo village and farming is a career I inherited from my parents.

Following the tragic events that happened in Sudan that affected my village, forcing the entire population to leave, I joined Gassiré IDP camp like many others in 2006. The daily deterioration of our living conditions in the camp coupled with the lack of access to arable land forced me to consider returning to my home village Faridé Dadjo. While still in the camp those who returned home earlier were visiting with us, narrating encouraging stories of what was going on. They would talk about the acceptable security due to good collaboration between the main tribes, Arabs and Dadjo, and farming activities in the way our forefathers had taught us to do for rainy season, counter season, and dry season agriculture.

I returned to my home village located 60 Km Southeast of Goz Beida in 2010. At the beginning, my integration in the village was very difficult as my family survived by each one of us trying to get something to eat. It was almost impossible for us to keep a variety of seeds that would enable us to carry out a general agricultural campaign. Two years later in 2012, our village started receiving humanitarian support from different NGOs such as WCDO with a food security program and a water, hygiene, and sanitation program.

Over the 2012 agricultural campaign I received a kit of rainy season seeds that included 10 Kgs of millet, 10 Kgs of sorghum, and 40 Kgs of peanuts. Indeed this support raised my morale as I was broke with no seeds at all and there were none in the village. With the support of WCDO, my family has been able to embrace the agricultural campaign in time with 1 hectare of sorghum, a half hectare of millet, and $\frac{3}{4}$ hectare of peanuts. The harvest is now estimated to be 1 metric ton of sorghum, 300 Kgs of millet, and 250 Kgs of peanuts that I plan to divide into two; half of the harvest will be allocated for family consumption, and the other half will be sold in the market to purchase three young goats to restart my small domestic animal rearing.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to OFDA and WCDO and their staff for their kind support to the Faridé Dadjo community. I pray that God will grant them a long stay in our country.